

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A surgical kit for treating incontinence comprising:
an implantable material suitable for a sling procedure,
at least one of a first type of needle suitable for a sling procedure, [[and]]
at least one of a second type of needle suitable for a sling procedure, wherein the first
type of needle is different than the second type of needle, and
an adapter for associating said implantable material suitable for a sling procedure with
at least one of said first or second type of needles.
2. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle
comprises a substantially straight needle and the second type of needle comprises a needle
with a curved portion.
3. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 further including a synthetic insertion
sheath associated with the implantable material to form a sling assembly.
4. (Currently amended) A surgical kit according to claim 3 ~~further including an~~
wherein said adapter is adapted for associating the sling assembly with a surgical needle.
5. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 4 wherein the adapter for associating
the sling assembly with a surgical needle comprises a dilator.
6. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle
comprises a needle with at least two handles.

7. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle includes an end portion with a passageway for receiving a suture.

8. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 7 wherein the passageway for receiving a suture comprises a hole.

9. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle comprises a movable inner member with a blunt end portion having a suture passageway and an outer sheath member with a sheath end, and

means for moving the blunt end portion between i) an extended position with the suture passageway extending beyond the outer sheath member, and ii) a retracted position with the blunt end portion spaced closer to the end of the outer sheath member than in the extended position.

10. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 9 wherein the sheath end comprises a substantially sharp surface for cutting tissue, and the first type of needle includes a means for locking the blunt end portion in the extended position.

11. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle includes at least two straight portions situated at a predetermined angle.

12. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 further comprising a first type of handle and a second type of handle wherein the first type of handle is different than the second type of handle.

13. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle is larger than the second type of needle.

14. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 1 wherein the first type of needle includes a bladder perforation detector.

15- 35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A surgical sling procedure for treating incontinence comprising the steps of:

providing a surgical kit with an implantable material suitable for a sling procedure, at least one of a first type of needle that is sized and shaped for inserting a sling, [[and]] at least one of a second type of needle that is sized and shaped for inserting a sling, and an adapter for associating said implantable material suitable for a sling procedure with at least one of said first or second type of needles, wherein the first type of needle is different than the second type of needle.

selecting the first or the second type of needle, and

implanting the implantable material using the selected needle.

37. (Original) A method of implanting a sling to treat urinary incontinence in a patient comprising the steps of:

providing a surgical kit comprising at least one guide needle, and at least one sling transport needle with a tip, a sling attached to the sling transport needle, and an adapter having tip receiving surfaces for receiving the tip of the sling transport needle,

creating at least one vaginal incision,
creating at least one suprapubic incision,
initially passing the guide needle through the suprapubic incision and then through the vaginal incision,
attaching the adapter to the needle,
placing the tip of the sling transport needle in the tip receiving surfaces of the adapter,
and
guiding the sling transport needle from the vaginal incision to the suprapubic incision with the guide needle to implant the sling.

38. (Original) A surgical kit for treating incontinence comprising:
at least one guide needle,
at least one sling transport needle with a tip, and a sling attached to the sling transport needle, and
an adapter having tip receiving surfaces for receiving the tip of the sling transport needle and having means for attaching to the at least one guide needle.

39. (Original) A surgical kit according to claim 38 wherein the adapter is integral with the guide needle.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) A surgical kit for treating incontinence comprising:
an implantable material suitable for a sling procedure,

a needle that is sized and shaped for inserting a sling, the needle having surfaces for engaging a handle,

an adapter for associating said implantable material suitable for a sling procedure with said needle, and

at least one of a first type of handle having surfaces for attaching the handle to the needle, and

at least one of a second type of handle having surfaces for attaching the handle to the needle, wherein the first type of ~~needle~~ handle is different than the second type of ~~needle~~ handle.

43. (New) A surgical kit for treating incontinence comprising:

an implantable material suitable for a sling procedure,

at least one of a first type of needle suitable for a sling procedure, and

at least one of a second type of needle suitable for a sling procedure, wherein the first type of needle is different than the second type of needle,

wherein at least one of said first and second type of needle comprises means for transporting said implantable sling material in a body of a patient.